Forged driving licenses

1951. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of forged driving licenses has increased dramatically throughout the country;

(b) the number of cases detected during the last three years in the country and the number of officers punished; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 prescribe detailed rules for granting driving licence. Under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, licensing authorities are appointed by State Governments. It is the responsibility of ' concerned licensing authorities to ensure that driving licences are issued only to an eligible person who fulfills all the requisite conditions prescribed for issuance of driving licence. Further, it is the State Government which controls the licensing authorities and thus has the responsibility to ensure that the functioning of the concerned department is free from corrupt practices.

(c) Does not arise.

Four-laning of NH leading to Mundra Port

1952. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to four-lane the National Highway leading to the Mundra Port;

(b) if so, whether any time bound programme has been framed for completion of the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Kandla to Mundra Port stretch of NH 8A (Extension) has been included in National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase III. The stretch of NH 8A from Kandla to Gandhidham is already 4-lanned. The consultancy work for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for 4-lanning from Gandhidham to Mundra Port has been recently awarded by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and feasibility study is targeted to be completed by March, 2008. Bids for the civil, work shall be invited after completion of DPR. The road portion from Mundra to Mundra Port is, however, at present not a National Highway. It is too early to frame time bound programme for completion of the project.